

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

CU-02 /060 W

-----250156 031372 /73

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3810

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 1495

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PE, SHUM

SUBJECT: LA CANTUTA STUDENT DIES WHILE IN CUSTODY

REF: A) LIMA 1446 B) ATTACHMENT TO LYLE LANE LETTER TO F. DEVINE
DECEMBER 29, 1976

1. A NATIONAL EDUCATION UNIVERSITY (LA CANTUTA) STUDENT TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY POLICE AFTER PRE-DAWN RAID ON CAMPUS (REFTEL A) DIED YESTERDAY (FEBRUARY 23), PRESUMABLY WHILE STILL BEING HELD AT THE CHORRILLOS MILITARY SCHOOL. AN INTERIOR MINISTRY BULLETIN PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 24 ATTRIBUTES THE DEATH OF THE STUDENT, WALTER BRAVO TRINIDAD, WHICH OCCURRED AT THE INTERIOR MINISTRY HOSPITAL, TO A "GRAVE VASCULAR CEREBRAL ACCIDENT CAUSED BY A PROBABLE RUPTURE OF A CONGENITAL VASCULAR CEREBRAL MALFORMATION (ANEURISM)."

2. AN ANALOGY BETWEEN THE DEATH OF BRAVO AND THAT OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY STUDENT FERNANDO LOZANO, WHO DIED OF A LUNG COLLAPSE APPARENTLY PROVOKED BY MISTREATMENT WHILE IN POLICE CUSTODY (REF B), MAY BE DRAWN BY CRITICS. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SEVERAL IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO CASES. IN THE BRAVO CASE POLICE AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY CONSCIOUS OF THE POSSIBLE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF HIS DETENTION, SUDDEN ATTACK AND SUBSEQUENT DEATH. WE UNDERSTAND THAT
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GOVERNMENT PHYSICIANS MONITORED THE ROUNDUP OF STUDENTS TO INSURE THAT NO ONE WAS PHYSICALLY MISTREATED. WHEN BRAVO SUFFERED THE ATTACK HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE HOSPITAL. HIS FATHER AND OTHER CLOSE RELATIVES WERE NOTIFIED AT ONCE, AND WERE PRESENT DURING EFFORTS TO REVIVE HIM AND AT THE MOMENT OF DEATH. INDEPENDENT DIAGNOSES OF CAUSE OF DEATH WERE MADE BY TWO TEAMS OF MINISTRY DOCTORS.

3. ONE OF THE RECENTLY-REOPENED INDEPENDENT MAGAZINES, EQUIS X. IS STILL GETTING JOURNALISTIC MILEAGE OUT OF THE LOZANO CASE AND HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE GOP HANDLED IT. THE BRAVO CASE WILL CERTAINLY BE REPORTED, BUT UNLESS OTHER FACTS COME TO LIGHT, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT IT WILL BECOME A CAUSE CELEBRE.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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